

REMARKS:

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 48 and 50-59 are pending and at issue.

The present amendments to the claims consist of either cancellation(s) of claims and/or amendments that place the present application in condition for allowance and/or in better form for appeal. Accordingly, entry of the claim amendments is appropriate after final rejection.

The 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

The Office Action maintained the rejection of claims 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Habener (US Patent 5,120,712, publication date: June 9, 1992).

In reply, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy extended by the Examiner in the telephone interview of October 7, 2008.

It is believed that the amendment to claim 48 and the cancellation of claim 49 presented herein render moot the rejection over Habener and accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and issue and respectfully request early action to that end. Applicants believe that no additional fees are due. However, should any fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this application and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1447. The undersigned invites the Examiner to contact him/her by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Richard W. Bork, Reg. No. 36,459/

Richard W. Bork, Reg. No. 36,459

Novo Nordisk Inc.

Customer Number 23650

(609) 987-5800

Please use the following Customer Number for all correspondence regarding this application

23650

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